of a government of murderers. We must show the workers and peasants that the students are on their side.

The response was unanimous: to close the University indefinitely and call on all other students in Russia to do the same. This was by no means the first strike of Russian students, but it was the first universal and purely political strike. Such a political strike of college students would be downright nonsense in a democratic country, but in Tsarist Russia, where people had no legal way to express their wishes, the students felt that they, as the young generation of intellectuals, were spokesmen for the nation and its spearhead in the struggle for freedom. Students' riots were therefore a natural form of national protest, and a universal strike of universities and colleges, without a time limit, was the strongest form of such protest.

The meeting ended in solemn silence, interrupted by a loud call from the rear of the crowd: "Do not break up, comrades!"

Behind the speaker's desk hung a full-length portrait of the Tsar in the red uniform of the hussars. A pole rose to the top of the painting and tore the canvas in two. "Away with the Tsar!" roared the crowd. Bystanders rushed to the portrait and tore off pieces of the canvas. I did my part and emerged with a piece at least two square feet.

The crowd, in high spirits, was moving toward the door when a young man addressed me in broken Russian. "Pardon, but could I see your piece? Oh, it looks fine. . . . Must be from a sleeve or the trousers. I have two pieces but they are not worth much—just drapery. They won't show anything in reproduction. . . . Would you kindly give me yours? This is for a New York paper." My piece of canvas, part of the Tsar's uniform, was my first contribution to the American press.

NEOPHYTE OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY

The University remained closed, but the library and the students' mess were open and full of activity and rumors.

The news from the East became worse. The Russian army in Manchuria was licked. The Baltic fleet sent to rescue Port Arthur met its end at Tsushima. Political strikes and agrarian unrest were spreading throughout Russia. Railroad workers walked out, declaring their solidarity with the factory workers slaughtered in St. Petersburg. Riots broke out in army barracks.

The government was panicky and vacillated more then ever between brutal reprisals and concessions. On August 6, the Tsar issued

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